



# Homestay Accommodation

## Homestay Profiles

Our hosts are carefully chosen for their warm hospitality and friendliness. They are inspected regularly.

Some hosts only accommodate girls, some only boys, some will only host certain nationalities or certain age ranges.

Sometimes Homestay accommodation needs to be changed due to illness or personal circumstances.

We will send you the profile for each Homestay in advance, including the address, so that your students and their parents have some basic information about where they are staying.



## Welcome to your new home!

At the Homestay each host will explain the following:

- Introduction to all family members and other students
- Health & Safety, fire exits, who to talk to if there is a problem, contact numbers
- How to get to school on Monday morning (walk or bus)
- Meal times and packed lunches
- Bathroom rota (depends on the number of people)
- Student questionnaire
- Laundry arrangements (usually one wash per week)
- Bed linen and towels are provided by the Homestay. The Homestay will wash small items such as underwear and sports clothes, and this can be arranged on arrival
- Rules of the house and expectations
- Medical conditions / administering medicine (as needed)
- Food likes and dislikes



### Please make sure your students are aware of the following basic rules...

1. Always be on time for meals.
2. Make an effort to talk to your family to practise your English.
3. Do not smoke in the house.
4. Always come back home before your curfew time in the evening.
5. Always offer to clear your plate at the dinner table.
6. Always keep your room tidy.
7. Ask your Homestay about laundry and using the telephone.
8. Always say "Please" and "Thank you".
9. Speak in English as much as possible, especially at dinner time.
10. If you are having dinner out remember to tell your hosts! They will not be happy if they cook but you are not there or do not eat!



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## Food

**Breakfast** is different in most homes. All students will have a breakfast available but understand that each family is different. Some families sit down together, others are very busy and don't have any breakfast. Some just have cereal such as Cornflakes and others have toast.

**Packed lunches** are provided for all Homestay students including excursion days. These include normally a sandwich or baguette, bag of crisps, cake or yoghurt or biscuit or chocolate bar, a piece of fruit and a drink.

**Dinner time** again is different in most homes and depends on how many people live there. All Homestay are informed to have dinner with their students as this provides the ideal time to talk and for students to practice their English.

Dinner time is usually at about 6pm, others later.

Be on time for meals and have courtesy to phone your host if you are late or do not want any dinner.



## Common problems



**Staying in someone else's' house is always different - your students must expect life to be different here to life at home.**

**Students need to adapt to life in England** and this is part of the experience. Our hosts are welcoming and experienced with hosting international students and they will try everything they can to make your student feel at home. This is, however, a two-way arrangement and students need to make the effort to talk to their host and try to fit in.

### Pets!

Many English hosts have a cat or dog and these are treated as part of the family. Pets are allowed in the house and hosts even cuddle them on the sofa when watching TV. Animals will naturally be curious when a new person arrives so inform your students to be prepared to make a new furry friend!



### Communication problems

Most problems between students and their Homestay are the result of miscommunication - we will work with you to ensure everyone knows what they should be doing.



### Did you know?

- Bedrooms are often smaller in the UK than in other countries
- Most homes have shared bathrooms, not en-suites. Showers are usually over the bath
- Most homes have carpets on the floor so students may have to remove their shoes
- UK hosts can be from all ethnic backgrounds and religions

